

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A key organization method comprising:
  - receiving a first access key that grants a patient-defined level of access to a first set of medical records;
  - receiving a second access key that grants a patient-defined level of access to a second set of medical records; and
  - storing the first and second access keys in a centralized key repository.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first access key is generated by a first patient, and the first set of medical records concern the first patient.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the second access key is generated by a second patient, and the second set of medical records concern the second patient.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising accessing, through a client computer connected to a distributed computing network, the first set of medical records using the first access key.
5. The method of claim 4 further comprising accessing, through the client computer connected to the distributed computing network, the second set of medical records using the second access key.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein:
  - the client computer is a personal computer; and
  - the distributed computing network is the Internet.
7. The method of claim 1 further comprising storing the first and second medical records on a centralized medical record repository.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the centralized medical record repository and centralized key repository reside on and are executed by a remote server connected to a distributed computing network.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein:

the remote server is a web server; and

the distributed computing network is the Internet.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the first set of medical records is a multi-portion medical record and the first access key provides access to one or more portions of the first set of medical records.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the second set of medical records is a multi-portion medical record and the second access key provides access to one or more portions of the second set of medical records.

12. A key distribution method comprising:

transmitting, from a first patient, a first access key that grants a patient-defined level of access to a first set of medical records;

transmitting, from a second patient, a second access key that grants a patient-defined level of access to a second set of medical records; and

storing the first and second access keys in a centralized key repository.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising accessing the first set of medical records using the first access key.

14. The method of claim 12 further comprising accessing the second set of medical records using the second access key.

15. The method of claim 12 further comprising storing the first and second medical records on a centralized medical record repository.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the centralized medical record repository and centralized key repository reside on and are executed by a remote server connected to a distributed computing network.

17. The method of claim 12 wherein the first set of medical records is a multi-portion medical record and the first access key provides access to one or more portions of the first set of medical records.

18. The method of claim 12 wherein the second set of medical records is a multi-portion medical record and the second access key provides access to one or more portions of the second set of medical records.

19. A key organization method comprising:
  - maintaining, on a remote server, a centralized key repository and a centralized medical record repository; and
  - storing a first set of medical records and a second set of medical records on the centralized medical record repository.
20. The method of claim 19 further comprising:
  - receiving, from a first patient, a first access key that grants a patient-defined level of access to the first set of medical records; and
  - receiving, from a second patient, a second access key that grants a patient-defined level of access to the second set of medical records.
21. The method of claim 20 further comprising storing the first and second access keys in the centralized key repository.
22. The method of claim 19 further comprising accessing the first set of medical records using the first access key.
23. The method of claim 19 further comprising accessing the second set of medical records using the second access key.
24. The method of claim 19 wherein the centralized medical record repository and centralized key repository reside on and are executed by a remote server connected to a distributed computing network.
25. The method of claim 24 wherein:
  - the remote server is a web server; and
  - the distributed computing network is the Internet.

26. The method of claim 19 wherein the first set of medical records is a multi-portion medical record and the first access key provides access to one or more portions of the first set of medical records.

27. The method of claim 19 wherein the second set of medical records is a multi-portion medical record and the second access key provides access to one or more portions of the second set of medical records.

28. A key organization system comprising:

a server system including a computer processor and associated memory, the server system having a centralized key repository and a centralized medical record repository;

wherein the server system is configured to:

store a first set of medical records and a second set of medical records on the centralized medical record repository;

receive a first access key that grants a patient-defined level of access to the first set of medical records;

receive a second access key that grants a patient-defined level of access to the second set of medical records; and

store the first access key and the second access key on the centralized key repository.

29. The system of claim 28 further comprising a client system including a computer processor and associated memory, the client system being configured to:

access the first set of medical records using the first access key; and

access the second set of medical records using the second access key.

30. The system of claim 29 wherein the server system and the client system are coupled via a distributed computing network.

31. The system of claim 30 wherein the distributed computing network is the Internet.

32. The system of claim 28 wherein the first set of medical records is a multi-portion medical record and the first access key provides access to one or more portions of the first set of medical records.

33. The method of claim 28 wherein the second set of medical records is a multi-portion medical record and the second access key provides access to one or more portions of the second set of medical records.

34. A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that processor to:

receive a first access key that grants a patient-defined level of access to a first set of medical records;

receive a second access key that grants a patient-defined level of access to a second set of medical records; and

store the first and second access keys in a centralized key repository.



35. A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that processor to:

transmit, from a first patient, a first access key that grants a patient-defined level of access to a first set of medical records;

transmit, from a second patient, a second access key that grants a patient-defined level of access to a second set of medical records; and

store the first and second access keys in a centralized key repository.

36. A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that processor to:

maintain, on a remote server, a centralized key repository and a centralized medical record repository; and

store a first set of medical records and a second set of medical records on the centralized medical record repository.